A Warning to Sinners,

Being a True

RELATION

Of a POOR WOMAN

Who is daily to be seen in *Rosemary-Lane*, over against *Well-Close*, whose Feet about three Months since began to rot, and are lately fallen off from her Body, She being alive; the Bones likewise rotting, and sending forth a most loathsome Smell, and the putrified flesh breeding handfuls of Maggots, which though removed encrease daily; which Woman the Neighbours Report hath been an ill Liver, and used to curse and swear, wishing that she might rot Limb from Limb, or that she might rot alive; which if it be true, we may look upon her as a Terrible Example of Gods Justice upon Notorious Sinners, and may be a Warning to all Persons to avoid all Swearing and all Horrid Imprecations upon themselves, or others.

With several other Remarkable Accidents.

Perused.

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Remarkable Accidents.

THe Judgments of God are many times ſtrange and remarkable upon notorious & impenitent Sinners; and we have ſeveral Relations of his Vengeance executed upon ſome of them in this Life, eſpecially upon Swearers, Curſers and Blaſphemers of his Holy Name.

As about two years ſince there was a young Man in *Staffordſhire*, who had ſtollen a Bible, and being charged with it, he denied it, and forſwore it, wiſhing his Hands and Feet might rot off while he was alive if he had it; In a ſhort time after, It pleaſed Divine Juſtice to find him out, for his hands began to rot off; and a while after his Legs, which ſtunck ſo horridly, that it was hardly to be endured; whereupon he was removed to a Barn near the place where he lived, there he lay in a very miſerable condition, hundreds of People in the Countrys round about going daily to ſee this dreadful Spectacle; and among the reſt, ſeveral Worthy and Learned Miniſters, to whom he freely confeſſed the truth of all the Buſineſs, acknowledging that he had the Bible; And owning the Righteous Judgements of God executed upon him, for ſo wickedly curſing himſelf; Thus he coniinued for ſeveral weeks, and though Phiſicians and Chirurgeons uſed their Skill for his Recovery; yet at laſt he miſerably died; and his Death remains as a *Warning-Piece* to others who are ſubject to that dangerous Practice of Curſing; *to ſin no more, leſt a worſe thing befall them.*

And

And there is now daily to be seen, in *Rosemary-Lane* over against *Well-Close* near *Tower-Hill*, a poor Woman, whose Feet about three Months began to rot, beginning first at her Toes and so proceeding farther and farther, her Flesh falling daily from the Bones, and the Bones likewise rotting, and sending forth a most loathsome Smell; and out of the putrified Flesh, great handfuls of loathsome Maggots are bred; and though they are taken away, yet they still encrease more and more: Her Feet awhile since fell off, and were buried in *Well-Close*, over against the place where she lyes; the Rottenness goes on daily more and more, and it is thought her Legs will rot off likewise: she is miserably poor, and is sometimes laid in the High-way, where her Husband begs the charity of those that pass by: she cries out if she bee stirred or moved, and says she is in very great pain: Her Husband says she was a civil, orderly Woman, but the Neighbourhood generally report, that she hath been formerly a very ill Liver, and that she used commonly to swear and curse upon every small occasion, and often wished that she might rot Limb from Limb, or that she might rot alive, or words to that effect, which if it be true, we may then look upon her as a Terrible Example of Gods Justice against such notorious unnatural Wretches as these are, who contrary to Nature, wish mischief and destruction to themselves, as the Debauched Wretches of the Town likewise do, who therein exceed the very Devils themselves, for certainly they never call upon God to damn them; Let all such wretched People read that of the Prophet *Zachary* 5. 3. *This is the Curse which goeth over the face of the whole earth; I will bring*

it forth, ſaith the Lord, and it ſhall enter into the Houſe of the Thief, and into the Houſe of him that ſweareth falſely by my Name; and ſhall conſume it with the Timber thereof, and with the Stones thereof.

It is reported, that ſome Children near *London*, having on the Lords day got a Pot of Drink among them, drank a Health to the Devil, ſaying, that he was the Son of a Whore, if he came not to pledge them; but before they drank round their invited Gueſt the Devil, or ſome horrid ſhape appeared to them, ready to pledg them, which almoſt frighted them out of their wits, and they lay in a ſad condition for ſome time after.

Having likewiſe an Account of the wonderful Preſervation of ſeveral Perſons lately near *Briſtol*; we thought good to communicate it:

About the Beginning of this preſent Month of *May*, Diverſe Perſons, vvhich vvere to the number of Twenty three, whereof ſeaventeen were Women, went in the Paſſage-Boat, which uſually goes from *Caerleon in Wales to Briſtol*; but being about half the way over, and the Tyde being far ſpent, they were forced to drop Anchor, and the Paſſengers reſolving to go to Briſtol that Night, deſired the Maſter of the Paſſage-Boat, that they might be put a ſhore in the Cock-Boat together, which they had no ſooner done, but the Boat immediately overturned and they were all caſt away; which cauſed the a Terrible Shreik among the poor Women: the Men that belonged to the Boat being uſed to the Sea, ſhifted for themſelves and preſently got back again into the Paſſage-Boat, leaving the poor Paſſengers to the mercy of God, and the devouring

ring Sea, but in this Imminent danger, the Almighty was wonderfully pleased to deliver them, for though there was but one of the Company that could swim yet by his means their Lives were saved, for he taking hold of a Rope that belonged to the Passage-Boat, kept him self up thereby, and likewise raised up the rest, catching some who had sunk twice, and others as they were sinking the third time, some of whom fastned upon him, and the rest one upon another; the Inhabitans upon the *adjacent* shore observing all that hapned, were extreemly concerned at this deplorable accident, making a doleful shout when they saw the Boat sink, and with all possible speed sent out all the Boats that were in readiness, who made such happy expedition for the relief of these distressed People, that of the three and twenty that were cast away, there was only one lost, who once had hold of the Heel of the Gentleman who was the Instrument of their preservation, but being under the rest could not keep his hold, and so was unfortunately drowned.

Likewise we cannot but take notice of that strange and Prodigious Showr of Hail which hapned upon Tuesday the Eighteenth of this instant *May*, of which without Prefacing, we shall make these few true Observations; About two a Clock in the Morning there began a furious Storm of Thunder, and Lightning accompanied with very violent Showrs of Rain, which continued with some Intermissions for several hours; and the Rain being so extraordinary, the waters rose so high about *Hockly in the Hole*, *Safforn-Hill*, and *Holbourn-Bridge*, that several Hogs and other Cattle were carried away by the Impetuosity of the Streams,

Stream, and drowned to the great loſs of the Owners:

About eight of the Clock in the Morning, there was obſerved to be a more Terrible Clap of Thunder than ordinary, which it ſeems hapned to break upon an *Houſe* near *Shoreditch*-Church, where a poor Man was in a Shed beating of *Hemp* for the Packthread Spinners; and obſerving the Lightning to be very extream, and having tvvo of his Children in the Shed vvith him, he vvas putting them behind the Door for fear of their being prejudiced by the Lightning, but at that very inſtant, the Man and the tvvo Children vvere ſtruck to the Ground, the Children in a little vvhile vvere recovered vvithout any hurt, but the Man lay for ſome time as if he had been dead, but being taken up and carried to his *Houſe*, upon ſearch it vvas found, that the Thunder or Lighning had burnt him from the Throat dovvn to the Breaſt, and along his Belly about an Inch broad, as if it had been ſeared vvith an hot Iron: his *Hat* was likevviſe torn either vvith the Thunder or the Fall, & there vvas an extraordinary ſmell of Brimſtone about him; the Man continued ſenceleſs for ſome time, but by degrees recovered his underſtanding; yet for a vvhile had a very great numneſs in his Thighs and Legs, vvhich vve hear ſince is very much abated, but yet ſtill finds a very great vveakneſs in his Arms and *Hands*; ſo that ſome of his Neighbours doubt vvhether he vvill ever have that uſe of them again vvhich he had before this unhappy accident.

Between Nine and Ten of the Clock the ſame day there were extraordinary dark Clouds over ſpread the Sky in and about the City of *London*, and in a while after

there

there fell such a Terrible Storm of *Hail* as was seldome if ever known in this City; at first the Inhabitants thought that Pebble Stones had been thrown against their VVindows, but were much Surprized when they saw it was *Hail*, it continued not long, yet in that time did very considerable dammage, by breaking of VVindows and especially Sky-Lights some of which were battered almost to Pieces; it kill'd several Pigeons; Ducks, and *Hens*; yea some Flying Rooks were unhappily destroyed thereby.

It is observed that this Storm did not fall in any great Compass of Ground; the Villages within three or four Miles about the City knowing nothing of it, so that it is hoped the *Corn-fields* have not received much damage thereby.

These *Hailstones* were of a Prodigious bigness some of them being measured, were found to be Six Inches about, some Seaven; nay some Persons affirm several were Eight or Nine Inches in Compass; they fell with such force that they ran into the Ground, and we hear were as large as an Ordinary *Hens* Egg; some being weighed were found to weigh near three Ounces, divers of them were Flat, others Round, some with sharp Edges, that they cut the Hands and heads of several Persons, that were abroad.

About half a qnarter of an hour before this Perry of Hail fell, there was heard by several People a Terrible Noise in the Air, which some resembled to the fall at *London*-Bridge, and others as if so many great Pebble Stones had been ratled one against another, which put them into some affright what so wonderful a circumstance might produce.

About

About the same time some New *Houses* which were lately almost built, at the lower end of St. *Martins-lane* near *Charing-cross* fell to the Ground, which occasioned some to discourse that they were beaten down by the *Hail*, which was as Improbable as Untrue, for the real cause of their Sinking was by reason of the weakness of the Foundation, which it is said being laid upon the Common-shore failed, and the *Houses* fell with it; we hear that this Remarkable Circumstance was taken notice of, That by reason of the *Hail*, several Persons both in those *Houses*, and the Street near them, went away to shelter themselves, and thereby escaped the danger which might have befallen them, so that by Divine Providence, we do not hear that any Person was hurt in the least thereby.